

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS DIVISION

In re: BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE, INC.,) Master File No. IP 00-9373-C-B/S
TIRES PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION) MDL NO. 1373
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THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO ALL)
ACTIONS)

ENTRY FOR JANUARY 3, 2002

The parties appeared, by counsel, this date for a telephonic status conference, during which the following was discussed:

1. The plaintiffs and Ford report that Ford's document production is proceeding, and the parties continue to work together to resolve related issues as they arise. The magistrate judge reaffirms the January 11, 2002, deadline for the completion of Ford's production.
2. The plaintiffs request, over Ford's objection, that they be permitted to conduct a Rule 30(b)(6) deposition on the issue of Ford's Explorer profits. The magistrate judge took this issue under advisement during the conference, and now **denies** the plaintiffs' request. The magistrate judge previously has ruled that the plaintiffs may, by March 1, 2002, file a motion to compel which addresses the issue of whether and to what extent profit information is relevant to the remaining claims in the Master Complaint, and the magistrate judge does not believe that any deposition on the issue is either necessary or appropriate until after that briefing is complete and an informed ruling has been made on the issue. The plaintiffs' motion to compel also should include their request for leave to submit or amend expert reports to address the profits issue in the event they ultimately prevail on their motion.
3. The plaintiffs expressed their concern that they may need to conduct follow-up discovery after the discovery deadline because of information obtained during the Rule 30(b)(6) depositions being conducted this month. The magistrate judge assured the parties that such additional discovery will be permitted, provided a showing of good cause is made.
4. The parties will confer regarding the continuation of the deposition of Tom Baughman and the plaintiffs' request to depose certain of the defendants' attorneys, and any issues not resolved by the parties will be addressed by the magistrate judge during the next status conference.
5. Ford agreed to provide its privilege log to the plaintiffs in ACCESS form.

6. Another telephonic status conference will be held in this case on **Thursday, January 10, 2002, at 1:00 p.m.** The call will be arranged by Tom Stayton, counsel for Bridgestone, who will notify liaison counsel and the magistrate judge regarding the arrangements.

ENTERED this _____ day of January 2002.

V. Sue Shields
United States Magistrate Judge
Southern District of Indiana

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